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Title : Need to take steps to improve the condition of rural artisans in Murshidabad district, West Bengal.

SHRIADHIR CHOWDHURY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the condition of rural artisans in the country particularly in Murshidabad district West Bengal.

Once upon a time district Murshidabad was the capital of present day Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. At that period of time rural artisans were patronized largely by the then zamindars and nawabs. In the due course of time an army of artisans was grown up with an expertise in the field of silk garments, goldsmith, motka cloths. Ivory Craft, Conch and Kansa manufacturing much to the glory of the district. The exquisite pieces of articles produced by them still demonstrates the enriched knowledge of the past. But over the ages this glory has withered.

In view of the potentialities of these artisans who are struggling for existence, I would request the concerned Ministry to utilize the skills of these artisans by fresh infusion of funds and widespread exposure and dissemination. The district should given special importance to revive the heritage of art, culture and entrepreneurship.